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IT was with many feelings of curiosity that the students gathered in the amphitheatre, December 14th, to listen to what our Dean might have to say. We had all been told to be on hand as there was something of interest and vital importance to take place.

Little did we imagine what we were to hear, but it is needless to say that not a man left the lecture-room, after hearing the plans for this year and the outlining of the work as it is expected to be next year, without a feeling of pride in our college and Faculty.

The new departure in the arrangement and distribution of our work is another step in advance in medical college lectures.

It again shows the careful thought and interest taken by our Faculty in the progress and success of the students of this college.

Our professors deserve all praise for the time and attention given to their subjects—time stolen from hours of sleep, recreation and study —when after a hard day's work in their respective fields, they meet us in the lecture-room, and devote an hour or so to our instruction, without the expectation of other remuneration than the satisfaction derived from benefiting the college and her matriculates. The quiz at the beginning of each lecture is frequently of as much value to the student as the lecture itself, as by this means the nail is driven home, the former efforts renewed, italicized by repetition and thus clinched in the mind of the student.

How frequently a subject, almost forgotten, is brought before us and fastened in our memories for "aye and a day" by a question being asked, a student missing, and then when answered we mentally say: "I won't forget that again."

The marking system which has been in vogue in all schools of learning, although having many disadvantages, is the best method, so far known by which an instructor could keep track of the work of the instructed.

Still "many a time and oft" has a student been thorough in his work upon a subject, so far as the practical knowledge and ground work is concerned and yet been classed as "deficient" because the question asked him, has been upon some detail of no real importance and therefore not remembered, or else the time given to the examination being necessarily so short and the student's mind so "rattled" that he has been unable to tell what he really did know.

By this substituting the quizzes for the final orals, the professors can better judge each man's ability and intelligence over a greater field and at the same time benefit the students by letting them hear the mistakes and answers of others.

The middleman has little care or responsibility, taking what lectures may suit his own sweet will and leaving the others, because "he has to take them next year, anyway." Many of us are naturally lazy—putting off until to-morrow what-

ever we can—and though it is not the best plan, as many find out to their expense when too late, yet it is true to human nature, as a rule. By the plan now contemplated, each year will have its distinctive work to be completed, forcing each man, in middle or senior class, to do nearer an equal share of work, thus allowing the student to cover more ground and do it more thoroughly than can possibly be done now, where all that goes to make up the practical work of the physician is crowded into one year's study.

Many of our Alumni are complaining that when placed face to face with disease, or called suddenly to the bedside of a patient suffering untold agony, he finds himself at a complete loss what to do. His ideas are all jumbled into one chaotic mass of symptoms and drugs.

He dare not, as with the lawyer, or in other professions, consult his books, waiving decision and action until he has "read up" on the subject.

He must act at once and that quickly and decisively, without time to arrange his flood of indefinite ideas.

If we could all have sufficient clinical or hospital practice to fasten what we learn in college and from our lectures so that it would be forthcoming when needed and as needed, and so it would be on our tongue's end, we would be more successful, and our work would give us far more personal satisfaction in the manner of its being done, not taking into account the incalculable benefit that would also accrue to the patient under our charge.

Hahnemann and His Influence Upon Modern Medicine.

BY PROF. S. H. TALCOTT.

A Lecture delivered before the Senior Class at the New York Homœopathic Medical College and Hospital, December 12, 1888.

GENTLEMAN:

DURING the past Summer it was my privilege to visit the birth place of Hahnemann, at Meissen, Saxony. I also visited the City of Leipsic, and stood in the presence of a stately statue erected by loving and admiring friends to the memory of the founder of Homœopathy. Stirred by the memory of that privilege, I now propose to speak to you concerning the greatest psychologist of either ancient or modern times. The more we study and examine the life and achievements of Dr. Hahnemann, the more fully we are impressed with the force of his abilities, and the mighty influence which he wielded and still wields in the shaping of modern medical thought.

That the arrow of truth may fly in a direct and certain course, let us wing it at the outset with the feathers of fancy.

It is recorded in legendary lore that when the angels bore away from earth the garden of Eden, after the expulsion of Adam and Eve, they took their course over the cantons of Switzerland. One of the angels, looking down, beheld those far-famed lakes, Brienz and Thun. Profoundly impressed with their beauty, and wishing to put the finishing touch upon nature in that locality, she took a handful from the garden of Eden and dropped it down between the lakes. And that little lump of paradise formed the foundations of the village of Interlaken. Some of you may have enjoyed the fascinating pleasures and the glorious scenery of that beautiful spot. And if you have, you can readily believe the truth of the ancient story.

Almost every famous and beautiful spot on earth has its crystalized legend. And every life in which there has been developed something rare, marvelous, or grand, is favored in a similar manner.

We cannot altogether free ourselves from romance. We all continue to believe in guardian angels and guiding stars. Santa Claus is as popular as ever, or will be in a few days. And so we continue to relate and listen to the legends of man and places as if they embodied, as to a certain extent they may, the germs of immortal truth.

Nearly a century and a half ago a little child was rocked in a rude cradle, by its fond and hopeful mother, in the village of Meissen, Saxony. One of the angels was swinging upon the gates of Paradise, just as our sweethearts

used to swing upon the gates in front of their father's homes, and looking down she beheld this child, and was entranced by its wonderful beauty. So she plucked from her own soul the spirit of goodness, of purity, of angelic enthusiasm, and of heavenly wisdom, and she dropped it down into the heart of that little child. The child grew to be a man; the man became a scholar, a chemist, a discoverer, and a physician; and his name was Samuel Christian Frederic Hahnemann.

Whoever has studied the life of Hahnemann can recognize, in his every word and act, the presence of that lofty spirit which came to him from the hands of his ministering angel.

From the charms of legendary lore we shall proceed to a contemplation of serious and earnest facts.

In considering the achievements of any individual, we are naturally prone to consider also those causes and influences which may have impelled to mighty effort and to triumphant success.

The parents of Samuel Hahnemann were honest, truthful, and pains-taking people. We catch a glimpse of the first ray of prophetic light in that statement of Hahnemann's father: "If that boy is permitted to live, I will give him lessons in thinking."

The instructions of the parent were well absorbed by the growing youth, and throughout the maturer years of our medical master his time was occupied in the faithful continuance of that marvelous mental operation known as thinking. The causes and the effects of every conceivable question or problem in medicine were thoroughly and carefully considered by Samuel Hahnemann.

Like the immortal Goldsmith in literature, Hahnemann left nothing in medical philosophy untouched, and he touched nothing which he did not adorn.

Hahnemann became first a student; secondly, a teacher of the languages and sciences; thirdly, a physician, graduating, according to some, at Erlangen in 1779, according to others, at Heidelberg in 1781. He practiced medicine until the uncertainties of his art so discouraged him that he gave up in disgust the work of attempting to heal. Then he became a chemist, and wrought in that field with a skill that made him famous, but his heart was in medicine. Consequently, in 1791, we find him engaged as a physician in charge of an insane asylum in Georgenthal, near Gotha. After a few years of service in this institution we find him again pursuing his chemical studies and researches, and likewise engaged in lecturing at Leipsic. From 1796, when he first enunciated the principle of his new system in Hufeland's "Journal of Practical Medicine," to 1810, when he made his most positive declarations to the world concerning Homœopathy, Hahnemann was engaged in developing the new form of medical practice. From 1810 to the close of his life, in 1843, Hahnemann was a wonderfully industrious practitioner and the most successful healer of disease that the world has known, either in ancient or modern times.

The story of Hahnemann's life—his teachings, his privations, his persecutions, and his final triumph in Paris—is familiar to you all, and needs no lengthy rehearsal.

Should you feel doubts as to the splendid character and gigantic abilities of this man, you may have them removed by considering the estimate placed upon Hahnemann by those who were his contemporaries, by those who were rich in profound knowledge, and by those who were familiar with his life-work.

Jean Paul Richter, the Sir Walter Scott of Germany, describes Hahnemann as "a prodigy of learning and philosophy." Sir John Forbes declared him to be "a man of genius and a scholar, a man of investigation, industry and undaunted energy."

Professor Christison, whose work on poisons is famous throughout the world, quotes Hahnemann's account of poisoning by arsenic as the most graphic and accurate he could discover. Hufeland describes him as "one of the most distinguished of German physicians." And Valentine Mott, one of the mightiest and ablest of American surgeons, after visiting Hahnemann in Europe, said of him, "Hahnemann is one of the most accomplished and scientific physicians of the present age."

These words of praise, you must remember, have fallen from the lips of those who were opposed to Hahnemann in medical theory. They speak volumes in behalf both of the honesty of those who uttered the words, and of the transcendent and immortal genius of Hahnemann.

While it is interesting to note the salient facts in the history of any life, it is yet more fascinating to contemplate that splendid spirit of an individual which impels its owner to surmount all obstacles, to disregard all difficulties, to drive the prow of one's bark through the darkest clouds and stormiest seas, and to sweep on irresistibly to the final harbor of a special and desired attainment.

The early life of Hahnemann was full of discouragements, and replete with those influences which would naturally divert a weak mind from the achievement of an inborn purpose. But, in studying the biographies of men, we find that there are those who cannot be repressed by unfavorable surrounding, or turned from a certain goal by repelling influences. The insistance of parents, and a special education, could not keep Goldsmith in a curate's gown. Much study and an expensive education in the law could not hold Goethe from that career in letters for which he was so grandly endowed. And, though the might of poverty and the force of circumstance combined to keep Robert Burns at the plough he found it impossible to do any thing except to give voice to the melody forever in his heart. And so it was with Samuel Hahnemann. He was bound by the galling chains of poverty; he was repelled by the scorn and ridicule of his confrères in the profession; he was invited to other fields of labor, through his abilities as a chemist and a teacher; but in the face of every adverse circumstance or diverting influence, he felt himself impelled to become the exponent of a new system of medical practice. And he rose with the mighty power of an inspired purpose, a clear vision, a marvelous judgment, and an iron will; and he accomplished the work to which he bent his tremendous energies.

Hahnemann not only made his mark as a chemist, and not only considered and understood the relationships of the material elements, but he seemed endowed with special power to pierce the veil, and to acquire a deep and true understanding of the subtle mysteries and operations of the human soul. As a result of his clearness of vision in this direction, he formed an appreciative estimate of those products which spring from the union of soul and body, and which we call mental manifestations. Hahnemann enunciated the fact—a fact which is now generally recognized—that there are no mental diseases which do not owe their existence to a bodily disease. He also recognized the fact that bodily diseases may in turn be produced through mental avenues, such as a shock from grief, or anger, or sudden excitement of any passion or emotion. Recognizing these facts, he came to the conclusion that the treatment of diseases, bodily and mental, must be based upon both a material recuperation of the physical forces, and a spiritual tranquillizing of the mental and the moral forces.

Hahnemann placed a truer estimate upon the brain and mind than any physician who had preceded him. The ancients thought that the brain was but a useless mass of crude matter, an overgrown gland, a mountain snow-cap to keep the rest of the body cool. But the modern student finds, with Hahnemann, that the brain, which the ancients despised, is the chief and most important organ of the human body. The human mind, the occupant of this brain, is the marvel and the mystery of creation. It is swayed by every flitting passion or impression, and yet it is held in steady poise by the calm monitions of reason, of cultivated judgment and of determined will. In these respects it resembles those wondrous rocking-stones reared by the ancient Druids. You remember that they were so finely poised that the finger of a child could vibrate them to their centres, and yet they were so firmly balanced that the might of an army could not move them from their base. So it is with the human mind, which has been thoroughly trained, carefully cultured, and kept by its owner as a pearl without price. The smile of a child can sway it to and fro, while the fagot of martyrdom could not change one jot or tittle of its firm determination.

To Samuel Hahnemann is due the honor of having been one of the great discoverers of the *sensitiveness*, and likewise the *stability* of the human mind. And the discovery of these facts led this great physician to new and successful issues in the treatment of disease.

Now, in considering the influence of such a man upon modern medicine, we must glance briefly at the condition of medicine when Hahnemann began his study, and continued his wonderful work.

One hundred years ago, the doctrine of a humoral pathology, under various and mystifying names, still swayed and influenced the minds of medical men. Again, the works of Galen, which had been accepted as medical scripture for 1,300 years had not been utterly discarded; and in those works we find teachings as dark as the mysterious shadows of the middle ages.

Though Paracelsus had burned, with mighty ostentation, the works of Galen and of Avicenna, he failed to dispose of their influence, nor did he substitute any new or practical theory in medicine. The influence of the "great empiric" tended rather to confuse medical theories, and to encourage boastfulness and arrogance in the practice of the healing art. Cullen had, indeed, written a Materia Medica, and the virtues of Peruvian bark as a cure for intermittent fever had been discovered and partially developed. Aside from this, the medicine of Hahnemann's day, as now generally acknowledged, was a jumbled mass of chaotic theory, and of bungling and unsuccessful practice. Physicians had no clear knowledge of disease itself, they had no well-defined law of therapeutics, they had no thorough understanding of the nature and action of the commonest drugs. Polypharmacy everywhere prevailed. Every physician was a law unto himself. Early in the Christian era, Scribonius Longus had prepared a life elixir containing sixty-one deadly drugs; and being ignorant of the virtues of them all, he piously believed he could ladle forth healing and happiness to all mankind. The imitators of Scribonius have succeeded each other even to the nineteenth century, and a few of them are not yet dead!

The rule of a century ago was not how little of a poisonous drug could be administered, and the cure of the patient effected; but, how much could the patient take before he died! Herberden, in 1782, shortly after Hahnemann graduated in medicine, wrote, concerning Peruvian bark, that twenty-four drachms a day for six days, providing it could be "got down," would usually weaken the fever, and free the patient from danger of relapse. Fourteen hundred and forty grains of powdered Peruvian bark per day for six days in succession was one of the prescriptions for intermittent fever a hundred years ago. Even our old-school brethren, some of them at least, would recoil from using so much at the present time.

The human form divine, whenever disordered, was looked upon in those days as a mass of diseased matter, and the more you could reduce the mass, the more surely you could dispel the disease. Von Humboldt states that "the diseased matter is really the whole living matter itself, so far as its form and position are changed, and the balance of its elements is disturbed."

Such was the idea of disease, and such the practice of medicine, during the latter portion of the eighteenth century. About that time, however, vague attempts to change the programme were being inaugurated. The fountains of the great deep were evidently breaking up, and a series of diverse experiments were being made upon the helpless sick. Depletion was followed by stimulation, and stimulation by efforts to produce chemical changes in the general constitutents of the body. The patient was knocked down by drugs, and braced up by wines, and drenched, and whitewashed, and galvanized by the various products of alchemy and chemistry. Only that which was physical and material could be examined or comprehended. Man was a species of India-rubber god, wound up, and turned loose to run his erratic and uncertain course. Only chemicals could affect him when sick, according to the prevailing notions of the waning century.

Hahnemann made a careful study and investigation of the wonders of chemistry; he wrote one of the most scientific dissertations upon arsenic that was ever penned by mortal

man; he discovered a process for converting alcohol into vinegar; he recommended a method for the crystallization of tartar emetic; he discovered a new variety of mercury—the mercurius solubilis—which has been of immeasurable benefit to suffering humanity; he developed a wine test, or rather a metal test, which has stood the wear and tear of more than fourscore years. As a chemist, he rose to an equal eminence with any master of his time. But he was not satisfied with attempting to cure disease by so-called chemical measures. He found them inadequate to the desired ends. He investigated disease, and found it to be a disturbance of vital force, a force which is imponderable, and which cannot be evolved from any crucible of chemical art. He found that a disturbance of vital force resulted in the impairment of normal bodily functions, and this impairment produced changes in the quality, the arrangement, and the distribution of the molecular atoms of the body. He found that diseases arise not only through the inception of hurtful substances into the system, by means of deleterious food or drink, or by the inhalation of contaminated or bacterial air; but he also found that diseases may arise from shock, through mental impressions, and that this latter cause produces quick damage, resulting in changes in the vital forces and in the organic structures. He found that drugs hitherto used in a blind way for the cure of disease were capable of developing marked and positive abnormal symptoms within the hitherto healthy body. And he also found that by the use of a proven drug, in modified quantities, he could remove the symptoms of disease in a person suffering in a similar manner as the one who had partaken of a given drug, and that, too, without first causing aggravation. Again, he ascertained by actual experiment that the qualities of a drug may be transmitted to new vehicles, thus enabling him to use the powers of a drug with even more certainty and safety than before.

To recapitulate: Here, then, are some of the achievements of Samuel Hahnemann:

1. He portrayed the true nature of disease, and described it as a disturbance of vital force.

2. He enunciated the law of similars embodied in the doctrine "similia similibus curantur,"—a law upon which scientific medicine is inevitably based.

3. He inaugurated the plan of proving drugs upon the healthy before using them as medicines for the sick.

4. He discarded polypharmacy as unscientific.

5. He adopted the plan of using the single remedy for the safe and speedy cure of disease.

6. He made war against bleeding, blistering, purging, administering emetics, and all forms of unnecessary depletion.

7. He defined medicine in a manner comprehensive enough for all time. In his Lesser Writings he states: "A knowledge of diseases, a knowledge of remedies, and a knowledge of their employment (that is, for the cure of disease), constitute medicine." That definition has not yet been improved upon.

8. He reduced the size of the dose, until all danger of aggravation from the drug was removed. He proved the possibility of successful treatment by the administration of medicines in minute quantities; and when that fact was determined, there was a gradual abandonment of the "kill or cure" doses of the ancients.

9. He developed in medicine the doctrine of transmitted force,—a doctrine that the inherent powers of a drug may be passed from the original material to a new material without a necessary loss of their natural energies. Is this doctrine any more wonderful in medicine than the same doctrine in physics—a doctrine which was exemplified by Franklin when he chained the lightning with a kite; by Morse when he sent that first wonderful message through the transmitted force of electricity from Washington to Baltimore: "What had God wrought?" And, again, by Cyrus W. Field, when, with a slender cable stretched along the rocky bed of old ocean for 3,000 miles, he made it possible for one nation to speak to another; and by imponderable means to bind the nations of the earth

with invisible yet incontrovertible bonds of intelligence, of sympathy and of love.

Who can estimate the influence of such a man who wrought, during an eventful life, such miracle like achievements? He developed a philosophy as comprehensive, as beneficent, and as far-reaching in its conception of usefulness as the prodigious philosophies of Aristotle, of Plato and of Lord Bacon. This man worked alone, unaided, uninspired save by his personal sense of the possession of a mighty and glorious truth. With that truth in his soul, he rose like a giant from the ranks of the people, seized the masses of antique theory and uncertain conjecture by which he found himself surrounded, and hurled them into the yawning gulf of a well-earned oblivion. He portrayed with the clearness of sunlight the folly of old time methods of treating the sick by rash and blindly heroic means; and he proved the powers and effects of drugs upon himself ere he ventured to administer them as medicines to the sick. He covered Europe with the evidences of his marvelous medical skill; he swept back the tide of long and bitter persecution by the sublime triumphs of his art; he kept up the glorious carnival of his successful practice until he was crowned with surpassing honors in Paris; and he rested not until, by the grandeur of his achievements, the city of Leipsic, from which he had been driven as a fugitive and a vagabond, erected a stately monument to his name —a monument that remains unto this day as a fitting memorial to his magnificent and imperishable memory.

While Hahnemann and his followers have been opposed at every step during the past eighty years, the cause of Homœopathy has continued to exist as a bright and growing cause. The principles which he avowed, and which his enemies sought to depreciate, have at last become, though unwillingly and unadmittedly on the part of some, the settled principles of modern medical practice. The lancet and other harsh methods of depletion have been laid away or rarely used. Polypharmacy is almost a thing of the past, having been practically discarded in Germany, the medical Mecca of the world.

The use of the single remedy and the divided dose is now taught by such leaders in the old school as Ringer, and Farquarson, and Bartholow, and Piffard, and T. Lauder Brunton, and C. J. F. Phillips, and A. A. Smith, and Professor Gubler.

Our old-school brethren have reduced their doses from twenty grains of a poisonous drug to one sixty-fourth of a grain of the same drug —thus giving their patients 1,280 chances for dying a natural death, where they had enjoyed but one before!

The foregoing mathematics are applied in accordance with the method adopted by our allopathic brethren when they attempt to "figure out" the infinitessimal doses of Homœopathy.

That our old-school brethren are recognizing the effects of drug provings upon the mind as well as the body, is evidenced by the following quotation from an article by J. Leslie Tobey, M.D., L.R.C.P., London, printed in the "American Journal of Insanity" for April, 1887: "Belladonna produces, in over-doses, mania; hyoscyamus, jealous furor; pulsatilla anemone, religious melancholy; nux vomica, ill-humor and passionate irritability; mercury, moral perversion; ignatia, lycopodium, etc., dejected, sorrowful humor; opium, intellectual ideation; alcohol, maddening, vicious, profane impulses; stramonium, morbid fear and cowardice; hasheesh, intellectual delusion."

Surely our friends are recognizing at last the light which has shone from the brilliant teachings of Hahnemann for more than fourscore years.

It is a generally recognized fact, that there is a gradual but steady increase in the longevity of the people. This is one of the marked effects of the teachings of Samuel Hahnemann. He not only cured the sick, but he gave us rare lessons relative to the avoidance of disease by proper quarantine in contagious cases, by suitable and careful daily diet, by wise methods of development and fortification of the human body against disease, by the avoidance of all depletory measures, and by the utilizing of all proper hygienic and sanitary means for the promotion and preservation of health.

The truth in medicine, as sown by Hahnemann, has produced, and is still producing, a rare and luxuriant fruitage.

"A single seed,
When soil and season lend their alchemy,
May clothe a barren continent in green."

The world has been blest with some great physicians. Many of these have attained what might be called a ripe old age. To show you what has been done in the line of personal living, in accordance with personal beliefs and theories, we now present the ages of some of the most distinguished physicians who have lived within the Christian era.

Galen, whose "Cyclopædia of Medicine" was the text-book of the nations for thirteen centuries died, at seventy; Van Helmot at sixty-seven; Harvey, who discovered the circulation of blood, at seventy-nine; Sydenham, at sixty-five; Vesalius, the father of anatomy, at fifty; Eustachius, the discoverer of the valvular structures of the heart, lived until he was seventy-four; Stahl also died at seventy-four; Boerhaave at eighty; Van Heller, the father of physiology, at seventy-one; John Hunter at seventy-five; Cullen, whose "Materia Medica" Hahnemann translated, at seventy-eight; Jenner, at seventy-four; Abernethy, at seventy-six; Sir Astley Cooper, at seventy-three; Sir Charles Bell, at sixty-eight; Abercrombie, at sixty-three.

Samnel Hahnemann, the founder of homœopathy, lived in accordance with the principles which he so fully enunciated, until he was nearly ninety years of age. His gigantic intellect remained unimpaired to the last, and his mental faculties were bright and strong to the day of his death. So you see that he outstripped them all in so living "that his days might be long in the land."

It is interesting to note the effects which have been produced by the teachings of Samuel Hahnemann upon the treatment of patients in the public institutions of various countries. To understand these effects, we may briefly compare the death-rates in some of the hospitals for the insane, as they were recorded eighty or ninety years ago, and as they are recorded at the present time.

At the Bicetre, in France, from 1784 to 1794, the death-rate was 48.75. At Salpetriere, from 1805 to 1813, the death-rate was 28.17. At the Retreat, in York, England, from 1796 to 1836, the death-rate was 22.22. At Wakefield, from 1818 to 1836, the death-rate was 31.61. At Aversa, Italy, in twenty years, the death-rate was 21.35. In Amsterdam, Holland, from 1832 to 1837, the death-rate was 21.56.

The following tables give statistics for the five years, ending September 30, 1887.

Results at the Utica, Buffalo and Poughkeepsie Asylums:

(OLD SCHOOL.)

Year.	Whole number treated.	Number of deaths.	Per cent. of deaths on number treated.	Whole number discharged.	Number discharg'd recovered.	Per cent. of recoveries on number discharged.
1883...	2,017	131	6.49	776	240	30.92
1884...	2,187	148	6.76	872	242	27.75
1885...	2,251	117	5.19	922	247	26.78
1886...	2,364	122	5.16	964	217	22.51
1887...	2,367	152	6.42	1,014	283	27.91

MIDDLETOWN ASYLUM. (HOMŒOPATHIC.)

Year.	Whole number treated.	Number of deaths.	Per cent. of deaths on number treated.	Whole number discharged.	Number discharg'd recovered.	Per cent. of recoveries on number discharged.
1883...	410	18	4.39	150	69	46.00
1884...	423	21	4.96	141	68	48.22
1885...	486	27	5.55	131	66	50.38
1886...	568	17	2.99	157	80	50.95
1887...	642	22	3.42	187	96	51.33

We now present the compiled averages for the afore-named five years as follows:

UTICA, BUFFALO AND POUGHKEEPSIE ASYLUMS. (OLD SCHOOL.)

Percentage of death on whole number treated..... 6.14
Percentage of recoveries on number discharged... 27.24

MIDDLETOWN ASYSUM. (HOMŒOPATHIC.)

Percentage of deaths on whole number treated.... 4.26
Percentage of recoveries on number discharged... 49.37

Outside of insane asylums we find that during the year 1876, the death-rate in the old school charity hospitals of New York city ranged from eight to twelve per cent; while at the

Homœopathic Hospital on Ward's Island, for the same year, the death-rate was 6.14. Since that year, the first after the Homœopathic Hospital was established on Ward's Island, the death-rates in the New York city hospitals for the poor have been lighter than they were previous to the establishment of the Homœopathic Hospital. This shows the beneficial influence of competition, as well as the beneficial effects of homœopathic treatment of disease, in our public hospitals.

Contrasting the death-rates of the olden times, where they range from twenty-one to forty-eight per cent., with those of the present day, where they range from less than three to about ten or twelve, you will note a marked change for the better.

With regard to the results attained by the homœopathic treatment of typhoid fever, of pneumonia, of scarlatina and of cholera, the comparison in favor of the new system of medicine is remarkable. You are so familiar with these statistics that we will not repeat them here.

Samuel Hahnemann not only lived up to the fulness of his own time, but, like all who are truly great, he projected himself, his work, and his influence upon the undiscovered future. Some of the theories which he but dimly outlined have since been developed by scientific processes into reasonable and understandable truths. While some have sought to claim that the "psora" theory of Hahnemann simply meant the itch, and that this great physician failed to discover the existence of the acarus, or itch-mite as an exciting and continuing cause of the skin disorder, we find, upon close investigation, that Hahnemann did know about the itch insect; for he writes, concerning the itch: "I agree with those who attribute the disease to a living cause." And, concerning the remedy which he applied for the cure of the itch, he says: "All insects and worms are killed by sulphuretted hydrogen." To confound the eruption caused by the itch-mite with the constitutional and far-reaching dyscrasia termed "psora," is, stating it mildly, a mistake of his enemies, and not of Samuel Hahnemann.

Concerning the cholera, he says: "It grows into an enormously increased brood of those excessively minute, invisible, living creatures so inimical to human life, of which the contagious matter of cholera most probably consists.

The Master of Homœopathy did not fail to discover the itch-mite, and, with unerring vision, he recognized the "comma bacillus" of cholera, about which the renowned Koch has written so much within the past few years.

But grander than all his discoveries concern-the physical and material nature of disease, his recognition of the influences of imponderable forces upon the life and the health of man, of which we have already spoken, was a discovery which shall last while the earth lasts and the inhabitants thereof continue to live.

No other author has more fully portrayed the subtle influences which the mind exerts over the body. No other author has so fully described and portrayed the effects of drugs in the production of abnormal mental conditions.

Here is the secret and source of Hahnemann's power as a physician to the sick; and in the future the potency of the master will become more apparent as the refined subtilities of the human mind become better understood.

Hahnemann was a physician who not only sought to cure disease, but he endeavored, also, to fortify and protect the community against the encroachments of pathological enemies. The prophylactics which he proclaimed against cholera and scarlet fever are among the most benign measures ever instituted.

The experiments of Pasteur at the present day, in seeking, by homœopathic prophylaxis, to ward off the approaching crisis of hydrophobia, are experiments in line and in sympathy with the homœopathic idea.

The modifying and renovating influences which Samuel Hahnemann shed upon modern medicine are immeasureable and incomputable. His achievements, as a renovator of the old and a proclaimer of the new, deserve to rank with the discoveries of an Alexander Von Homboldt or the philosophical deductions of a Sir Isaac Newton.

Samuel Hahnemann deserves to be crowned and canonized as one of the world's greatest

benefactors. More than a century has elapsed since his great work began, but his influence is neither dead nor forgotten. The monopolizing greed of his opponents cannot absorb them, nor will the careless apathy of his professed friends dim the lustre of his rare achievements. We may turn always, with profit and with pleasure, to his written works, as to an old gospel that is ever new; and we shall find therein, if we study them aright, fruitful sources of inspiration, of encouragement, and of helpful information. It is only when we stray from the teachings of the master, when we grow weary of making those profound investigations so necessary to a proper understanding of disease and the best methods for curing it, that we turn our faces from the light and direct our steps into paths of darkness and defeat.

Are the virtues and powers of Homœopathy exhausted? A thousand times no! They are as yet but partially discovered, imperfectly understood, and feebly utilized. One of the saddest failings of our times, and it is a failing which has touched with a leprous hand the brightest pages of human history, is that weakness of human nature which makes us prone to forget and forsake the faith of our fathers, and to slip away from those eternal truths which are hidden in the arcana of nature, waiting only for human intelligence, guided by divine inspiration, to discover and bring to proper use.

What we need is expressed in the sigh of the poet:

"Oh for a closer walk"

in the footsteps of our great medical master.

Fidelity to a purpose is the strongest impulsion towards the goal of success. That success may mean death in the performance of duty today, but immortal glory throughout the coming future. Fidelity to a purpose is a rare quality, and infrequently found; but when it is discovered it excites profoundest admiration and enthusiasm. It was fidelity to a purpose that caused Leonidas and his 400 to hold the pass at Thermopylæ. It was fidelity to a purpose that carried Cardigan and his "noble 600" through the battle hell at Balaklava. It was fidelity to a purpose that stimulated Cambronne to hurl back an insulting epithet into the teeth of the British general when, upon the fated field of Waterloo, that general had the audacity to ask the "Old Guard" of Napoleon to do what it never had done, and never could do—to surrender in the face of an overpowering foe. And it was fidelity to a purpose that stirred the brave color sergeant of Mississippi to tell his colonel on the eve of battle: "I will bring back those colors in honor, or I will report to God the reason why."

Such examples of fidelity to a purpose cheer, and strengthen, and encourage us all in the performance of our daily and toilsome duty.

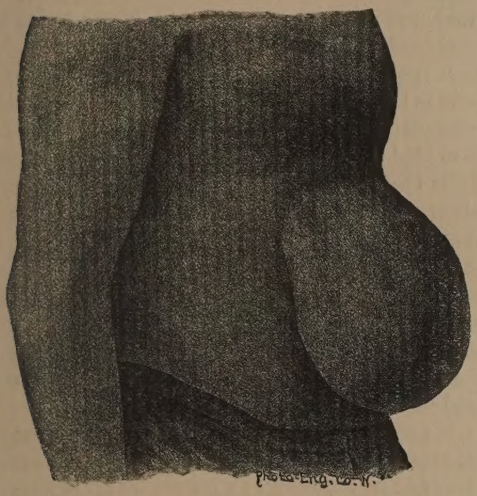
When William of Orange assumed a mighty rulership, he placed one hand upon the Magna Charta, and the other on the hilt of his sword, and swore a solemn oath: "I will maintain;" and the power which he developed continues in all the avenues of commercial, intellectual, and social enterprise throughout the entire world.

Young gentlemen, you are just entering upon a course of preparation for your life-work, and I entreat you to consider fairly the truths enunciated by the founder of Homœopathy. If you believe these truths, then you should cherish them with that fidelity of purpose which will earn for you not only the admiration and respect of others, but also the conclusive approval of your own consciences. Be true to the cause you have espoused. Be earnest in your search for the best and surest means for the dispelment of disease. Thus you will most surely win an appropriate success in your chosen profession; thus you will be enabled to confer the blessing of safe and speedy cures upon the sick and the suffering; and thus you will most certainly perpetuate and intensify the fadeless glory of Samuel Hahnemann.

"THERE is threatened danger of a pathological diminution of the essential elements" (members of the Senior class.) THE CHIRONIAN would prescribe liberal doses of Dunglison alternated with Lusk, with Webster's unabridged—nothing less than four syllables—as a tonic three times a day from now till April 18th.

Operation at the Hahnemann Hospital. Removal of an Abdominal Tumor.

BY PROFESSOR HELMUTH.



THIS patient came before the class at Professor Helmuth's clinic a short time ago. He is about sixty years of age. Twenty-two years ago he was struck with a ball in the epigastric region, and shortly thereafter a tumor made its appearance. The neoplasm grew gradually, but steadily; at first it was sessile but after a time appeared to become pedunculated. It now hangs from the epigastric region by a pedicle about nine inches in diameter. It has given rise to no trouble, except from its weight and its tendency to get in the way. It is now considerably larger than a man's head.

Before operating Professor Helmuth said:—"Tumors of the abdominal varieties are rare, they are generally either chondromata, fibromata, lipomata, or mixed tumors. I have only seen one other case besides this one, and that was a chondroma in a negro. It was situated over the transversalis muscle, and portions of it rested on the transversalis fascia where the muscular fibres had been obliterated by distension and pressure.

"As a rule these tumors are situated between the external oblique and the transversalis muscles.

"Lipomata, as I have already mentioned are liable to become pedunculated, and have a tendency to slip down from place to place. This tumor, I am informed, has done so. To the touch it gives all the signs of a fatty tumor, but when grasped with the hand, a firm hard substance appears to occupy its centre. This somewhat complicates the diagnosis, and it appears as if it might be sarcomatous within."

An aspirator was introduced, but no fluid was found. An incision was then made over the tumor, parallel to the median line of the trunk. The tumor at once came into view, being composed of fat and placed immediately beneath the skin. It was divided into a number of lobes; and, as usual, encapsulated, the capsule dipping down between the lobules. It was easily pulled out from its position. The skin was so stretched over it that a strip nearly three inches wide had to be removed from each side of the flap to render the apposition perfect. There was very little bleeding, only one or two small vessels being severed. The edges of the wound were brought together by button-sutures, and a continuous suture of catgut inserted along the edges. It is expected that union will take place under one dressing.

The tumor weighed exactly four and a half pounds, and in the centre a smaller tumor, bearing, to the naked eye, the appearances of sarcoma, was found—this was encapsuled. Reference to the accompanying cut will show the appearance of the growth before removal.

By press of matter we have been forced to leave out some articles that will appear in the next Chironian.

Rumor hath it that before these notes are printed the ranks of the Benedicts will be recruited from the class of '89.

Electrolysis of a Vascular Fibroma.

DR. WM. H. KING.

THIS case was one of a tumor of the tongue. It was thought to be an angioma, but the diagnosis was not certain, because it was impossible to get at it to make a thorough examination. After the patient was etherized it was discovered to be a very vascular fibroma. The tumor was so large as to impede the speech decidedly, and occupied nearly one-half of the right side of the tongue, extending down deep into the base of the organ. In appearance it resembled a large blackberry, being of a deep bluish color and covered with a thin whitish fur. To the finger the feel was like cork. It was incompressible, and did not pulsate. As nearly as can be learned, it was congenital, but has been growing rapidly of late. Dr. Wilcox said:

"Angioma of the tongue is quite rare. It is usually congenital, but may be acquired. An angioma consists of a net-work of veins or expanded venous capillaries, which anastomose freely.

"Angiomata or naevi are divided into the capillary and the cavernous varieties. The former consisting of dilated capillaries, the latter of larger vessels and arterial branches. The cavernous angiomata are attended with much more danger and difficulty in the treatment than the other variety.

"The capillary angiomata are further subdivided into the cutaneous, where they enter into the skin itself, and the sub-cutaneous, where they are underneath the skin and show through. Being usually congenital, naevus has received the common name of 'Mother's mark.' They are usually compressible, but not always. Sometimes angiomata of the tongue, without treatment, degenerates into papillomata or slough out. Occasionally they grow to such size as to fill the whole mouth and render speech and deglutition impossible. If the tumor is small it may be dissected out, but the hemorrhage is very great. Another method of removal is by ligation, but this is exceedingly painful. The best method of removal is by electrolysis, which operation Dr. King will perform this afternoon."

Dr. King on invitation of Dr. Wilcox said:

"In order to get good results with electricity we should first understand its action.

"If the two poles of a galvanic battery are introduced into a sac containing blood, a clot will form around each of them, that around the positive will be small but hard and firm, while that around the negative will be larger but soft and easily absorbed by the circulation.

"The clot around the positive pole is increased in size if an iron needle is used instead of a platinum one. This is due to the oxydation and disintegration of the iron. Bearing these facts in mind it will be seen that when it is our desire to thoroughly cut off the blood supply by coagulation, the needle connected with the positive pole should be introduced at the base of the tumor. If the tumor is larger, this needle should be removed and inserted in another place, and so on, until the coagula formed by it cover the whole base of the tumor and completely cut off its blood supply.

If the tumor is small, the negative pole may be applied to the surface, but, if large enough, it should be attached to a needle which is introduced in such directions and places as to act on all of the superficial part of the tumor. The circulation should be entirely cut off, which will be known by the tumor turning blue and becoming very hard; for, if a small red spot in which the circulation remains is left, it will gradually absorb the clot in the rest of the tumor and the operation will be a failure. If the treatment is successful, the tumor will shrink about one-third of its size in the first four days and one-half of its size in eight days, where it will remain unchanged for from five to twenty days, according to its nature, when it will drop off, and leave, if upon the skin, a small white cicatrix."

The mouth of the patient was held open by Whitehead's gag, the tongue drawn forward with a valsellum forceps, and the needles introduced in accordance with the principles stated above. The needles were removed and their

position changed from time to time. The current was applied for about a half an hour. At the end of that time the tumor was much reduced in size, of a blue-black color and so friable as not to hold the needles when they were introduced. It was noticed that the pulse and respiration of the patient were depressed while the current was on, and came up at once on its stoppage. The current used was seven or eight cells. The attempt was made to use ten cells, but the effect on the pulse and respiration was too great to permit it.

College Notes.

WHY does Prof. M. D——d lecture with the forefinger of his right hand inserted in his spectacle case? *Quien sabé?*

THE class of '90 boasts of the tallest man, the shortest man, the fastest sprinter, and the champion dog killer of college.

PROFESSOR DILLOW thinks that the answers to his quiz came in a very scanty flow, with abnormal deficiency in solid matters.

WANTED, some one to exterminate the Freshman who plays "I am far frae my hame" on the piano, or else take him thither.

A SUPERSTITIOUS opinion prevails among the candidates for physiology examination that 13 is still as unlucky a number as ever.

IT is largely due to the thoughtfulness of C. B. Flint, '90, that we have the pleasure of reading Professor Talcott's opening lacture.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BULMER, '84, is the happy father of a bouncing boy, also named after the illustrious Father of our Country.

COUNTING the total abstinence beard of Mr. H—ll—tt, the editor counted twenty-three new ones in process of cultivation for commencement.

LEWIS was quite well satisfied with the quiz in pædology, Professor Deschere concurred with him in his opinion. Can you hear that Mr. Lewis?

A. B. NORTON, '81, has been appointed surgeon, and Carl P. Elebash, '84, and W. S. Pearsall, '85, assistant surgeons to the Ophthalmic Hospital.

OPERATIONS upon the cadaver by members of the Senior class were begun just before Christmas. The outlook for future Helmuths and Doughtys is encouraging.

DR. J. LINCOLN MOWBRAY, '88, has been appointed Dispensary Surgeon in place of Dr. S. H. Knight, '86, who is now House Surgeon of the new Homœopathic Hospital at Detroit.

THIS is the season of clubs, for it matters not which way you turn you are sure to be invited to join some discount scheme on surgical instruments, cases, etc. Verily, clubs are trumps.

IT will interest the members of the class of '83 to learn that Dr. J. P. Rand who has been practicing at Monson, Mass., up to three months ago, is now located at 37 Pearl Street, Worcester, Mass.

MR. E. G. TUTTLE of the Senior class, at the invitation of Professor Helmuth, took the place of House-Surgeon Gwynn at Helmuth House during the holidays, while the latter was on a few days' vacation.

THE POPE M'F'G CO., of Boston, Mass., issue a very convenient and novel table or desk calendar for 1889. It is in the form of a pad, resting on a handsomely gilded stand, so that the surface of each leaf is brought directly before the eyes.

THE insolvent condition of two tonsorial artists on Third avenue during the last two months must appeal directly to the sympathies of the Senior class. Is it right, gentlemen, that the barber should be robbed of his honest dues?

PROBABLY no lecture has been more widely appreciated of late than that of Prof. J. T. O'Connor upon "Localization of Brain Function." We note from the *Medical Institute* that a Philadelphia audience was the last to listen to this instructive subject.

DURING the week ending December 15th, there was an operation at Helmuth House every day. Operations there have been frequent all Winter, thus testifying not only to the skill of

Dr. Helmuth as a surgeon, but to the efficacy of Homœopathic surgery as well.

THE human body may be likened to a house; the bones corresponding to the foundation; the muscles to the super-structure; the blood vessels to the plumbing; the nerves and brain to the electrical apparatus, the battery of which is the brain itself. PROFESSOR DOUGHTY.

AT a kirmiss recently held in Bridgeport, Conn., votes were taken for the most popular physician. There are seven homœopathic and seventy allopathic doctors in Bridgeport. The vote resulted in placing three of the homœopathic physicians as the three most popular doctors in town.

HE wears a number 7½ hat (so he says); he says he has smoked the same pipe for forty years (and we believe it); he is always free with advice (both medical and dental), and still he is as verdant and unsophisticated about *some* things as the most puerile member of college.

P. S.—His name is not uncommon.

IF our Faculty could see the studious aspect that pervades the lecture rooms between lectures and during spare minutes, since the announcement of the new rules in marking, we think they could not help but feel that this change was a beneficial one; but the quizzes and examinations will tell the story.

SINCE being elected Editor of this column the present incumbent has received seventeen invitations to dinner and eleven invitations to the theatre. He makes note of this merely to remark that all such invitations will be accepted with thanks; but that does not necessarily mean that each man giving an invitation will see his name in print in the next issue of THE CHIRONIAN.

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY: "What would you do if a patient came to your office suffering from frost-bite?"

Senior (after a long pause and evident mental agony): "Well, I think I would give the patient a rest."

Professor: "That's a pretty good guess. Would you prescribe this rest internally or externally?"

IF the young men who have been scouring the city of late, endeavoring to find "ponies" in anatomy, would devote this misspent time to Gray, they might learn the whole arterial system. This leads us to say that as much time and thought are sometimes lost in endeavoring how *not* to learn a given thing—and still pass the examinations—as would make time in which to learn the prescribed subject itself.

RECORD of operations witnessed at the "Helmuth House" by members of the Senior class for one week:

Monday, Dec. 10th. Amputation of the scrotum.

Tuesday, Dec. 11th. Laparotomy.

Wednesday, Dec. 12th. Sarcoma of the testicle.

Thursday, Dec. 13th. Laparotomy.

Friday, Dec. 14th. Lupus. (Volkmann and Piffard's operation.)

Saturday, Dec. 15th. Fixation of floating kidney.

ABOUT sixteen members of the Senior class recently availed themselves of the invitation extended by Professor Houghton; and visited the Institution for the Improved Instruction of Deaf Mutes, located at Sixty-eighth Street and Lexington Avenue. They met with a pleasurable surprise that will be long remembered. This institution has been in operation since 1867, and the plan of instruction is as marvelous as it is successful. The curriculum includes a five years' graded course and when the Deaf Mute has completed this, the attainments received are far in advance of those of the graduates of our Grammar Schools.

After the first year, the gestures and signs are entirely discarded, and the only method of education pursued, is that of *articulation* and *lip-reading;* so that after a year or so of such instruction, the scholars are able to understand any sentence spoken in an ordinary tone of voice, providing they can *see* the lips of the speaker; and their answers will be intelligible to all who hear them. With such institutions as this what cannot be accomplished in the way of instructing these heretofore apparently hopeessly afflicted creatures?